

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2553X

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1193

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC GR US

SUBJECT: GREEK-EC RELATIONSHIPS: DISCUSSIONS WITH
CARAMANLIS

REF: STATE 27457

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER DINNER LAST NIGHT WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS I COVERED WITH HIM THE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD SEEN THE STATEMENT THE EMBASSY HAD ISSUED SEVERAL DAYS AGO CONCERNING GREEK-EC RELATIONS, AND HE SAID HE HAD. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED OUR PROMPT CORROBORATION OF THE POSITION HE HAD BEEN TAKING PUBLICLY, NAMELY, THAT THE USG WAS NOT OPPOSING GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. EVEN SO, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN HOPING THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO FARTHER AND TO EXPRESS AN EVEN MORE FAVORABLE POSTURE PUBLICLY ON THIS POINT SINCE IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE SUCH A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON GREEK PUBLIC OPINION.

2. I EXPLAINED TO CARAMANLIS THAT THERE WAS NOT QUESTION BUT THAT THE USG CONTINUED TO LOOK WITH FAVOR ON A CLOSER GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND TO SUPPORT THE GREEK-EC AFFILIATION. I SAID I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM HIM THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO SO STATE IF QUESTIONED BY EC MEMBERS.

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HOWEVER, I EXPLAINED -- AND HE GRUDGINGLY AGREED --

GREECE'S REQUEST FOR ACCELERATED MEMBERSHIP WAS BASICALLY
A QUESTION BETWEEN GREECE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
ITSELF. I ALSO ASSURED HIM THAT US REPRESENTATIVES
HAVE NOT IN ANYWAY INTERFERED IN THE EC'S CONSIDERATION
OF TIMING OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF GREECE'S MEMBERSHIP
IN THE COMMUNITY. CARAMANLIS SAID HE NEVER HAD ANY
DOUBT ABOUT THIS.

3. THIS PART OF OUR CONVERSATION ENDED WITH HIM
EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
GREECE IN THIS MATTER WHENEVER THERE WAS A
SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO AND THAT ANY TIME WE
COULD INDICATE PUBLICLY THAT SUCH WAS OUR POSITION IT
WOULD BE ALL TO THE GOOD. KUBISCH

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